



OPENING
2020

•

at
President
Lincoln's
Cottage

Exhibit on Child Loss & Parental Grief

General Information and Giving Opportunities

01

“

...IN THIS SAD WORLD OF OURS,
SORROW COMES TO ALL...

Abraham Lincoln

”

The Cottage

A HISTORIC HOME IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

While in residence at the Cottage, President Lincoln visited with wounded soldiers, spent time with self-emancipated men, women and children, and developed the Emancipation Proclamation. The human cost of the Civil War surrounded him, undoubtedly impacted his thinking, and strengthened his resolve to challenge the status quo.

Through innovative guided tours, exhibits and programs, we use Lincoln's example to inspire visitors to take their own path to greatness, and preserve this place as an authentic, tangible connection to the past and a beacon of hope for all who take up Lincoln's unfinished work.





"The Greatest Tragedy"

When Abraham and Mary Lincoln's son, Willie, died in February 1862, the First Family once again experienced what is often referred to as "the greatest tragedy."

Desperate for a more private place to grieve the loss of their son – the second of their four boys to die from an illness in childhood – the Lincolns moved to the Cottage at the Soldiers' Home.

“

WHEN WE ARE IN SORROW,
QUIET IS VERY NECESSARY TO
US.

Mary Lincoln

”

Drawing Connections

The stigma of grief transcends time and place. Families today continue to struggle under the societal expectations of mourning the death of children.

In this first of its kind exhibit, we will bridge the Lincolns' experience with that of modern families whose children have died inexplicably. The exhibit will bring light to the experience of child loss across time, whether from illness, disease, physical or gun violence, or other causes.





A Multifaceted Exhibit

TEACHER & CONNECTOR

Bridges historical experiences with those of modern bereaved families.

LISTENER & ACKNOWLEDGER

Provides bereaved families an opportunity to speak about loss.

RESOURCE

Provides mindfulness and wellness tools for people to use to help those who grieve.

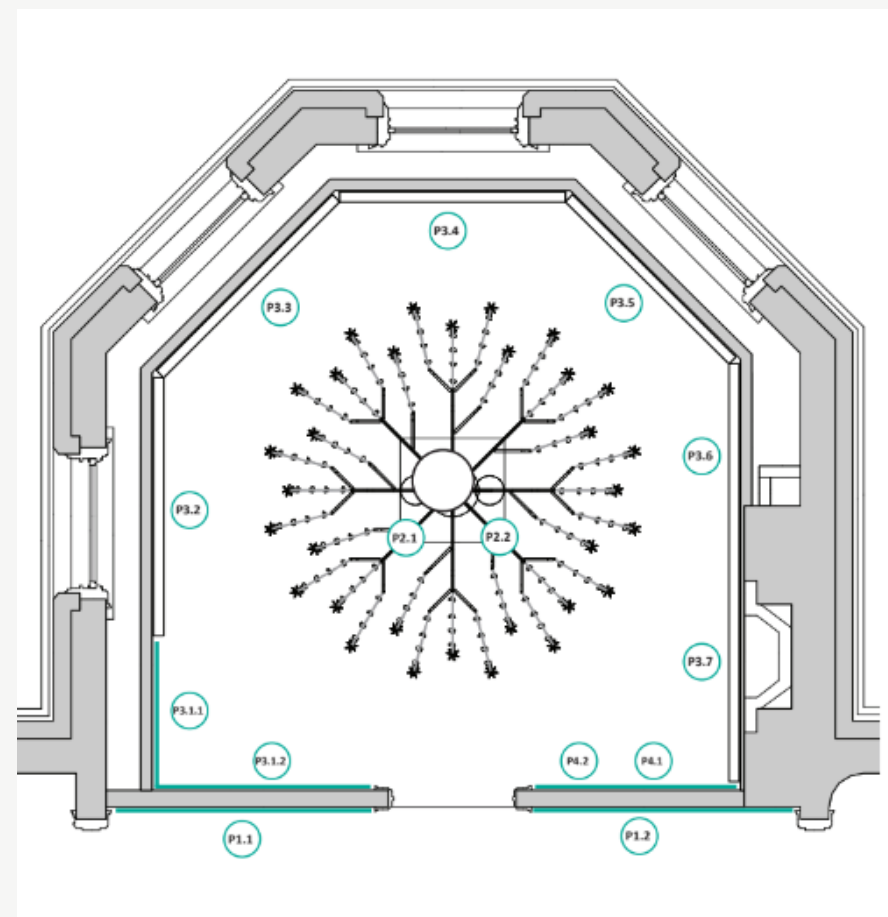
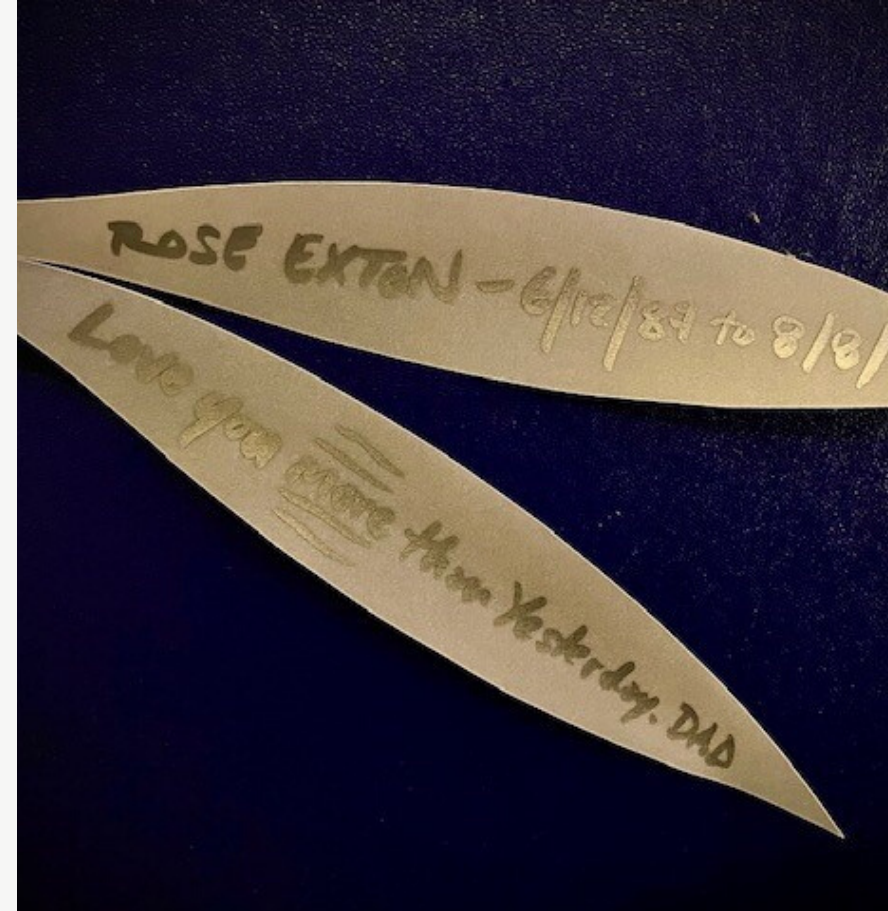
MEMORIAL

Provides a way for a community of parents – and those who love them – to memorialize their lost children.

Memorial

A key feature of the exhibit, will be a large "mourning willow" allowing visitors to pay memorial to loved ones by adding vellum leaves to the branches of a tree illuminated from within.

The willow will serve as a structural feature of the exhibit space where visitors remove tendrils and write names of lost loved ones and messages. While the exhibit centers on parental grief, the willow will be a place for all visitors to memorialize lost loved ones.



Companion Programming



EXHIBIT OPENING & DEDICATION

An opening event, public dedication, and memorial program to launch the exhibit

CONVENINGS & RESOURCES

Sessions incorporating mindfulness and wellness such as writing workshops, yoga, mindfulness walks, musical performances and film screenings

SCHOLARSHIP

Discussions with leading experts that promote reflection on the Lincolns' experience with grief and grief in our daily lives

“

I am so humbled and honored to be a part of this exhibit and so happy to share our experience. [The exhibit] is so tragically beautiful. Thank you so much for this. It cannot be said enough times that this exhibit is sacred and a gift to grieving parents everywhere.

The gratitude for this alongside the wish that it never had to be just seems to be another aspect of having to learn to live with love and loss, sorrow and joy, beauty and pain, together at the same time.

KARLA HELBERT, LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR,
BEREAVED PARENT, AND EXHIBIT ADVISOR

”

Sponsorship & Funding Opportunities

Exhibit Funding Goal : \$85,000

BENEFACTOR

Individual sponsorship levels come with numerous benefits including special engraved memorial leaves, donor recognition, invitations, and private experiences.



CORPORATE

Corporate Sponsor levels include recognition in exhibit and through exhibit promotion, invitations to special events, private experiences, and discounted event space rental.



MEMORIAL

Individual gifts can be made in honor of loved ones with special opportunities, including a memorial vellum leaf and memorial listing.



Advisors & Families

For President Lincoln's Cottage, this exhibit is historical and personal. Our inclusive approach is supported by a team of six expert advisors and ten bereaved families, and the list continues to grow.

This is a representative list.



DR. JOANNE CACCIATORE

Bereaved Parent; Founder of MISS Foundation, a community of compassion and hope for grieving families

Exhibit Advisor

DR. CATHERINE CLINTON

Author of *Mrs. Lincoln: A Life*; University of Texas at San Antonio
Scholarly Advisor and Exhibit Advisor

THE MATTHEWS FAMILY

Bereaved Family

Shared and contributed reflections on their grief over the death of three children

“

"...I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming..."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

”

Transformational Support

FIRST OF ITS KIND

This groundbreaking exhibit is the first to tackle the issue and stigma of child loss historically and in a modern context.

A RELATABLE LEADER

Abraham Lincoln is often depicted larger than life, but his time at the Cottage was deeply personal and human. This exhibit will explore a side of Abraham Lincoln and his family that visitors can relate to.

A HOME FOR BRAVE IDEAS

Our mission is to reveal the true Lincoln and continue his fight for freedom. This exhibit reveals a crucial aspect of the Lincolns' experience and offers resources to all who grieve.

COMMUNITY

President Lincoln's Cottage is located on the Armed Forces Retirement Home campus, home to hundreds of veterans, and serves a diverse population in Washington, DC as well as visitors from across the globe.



About President Lincoln's Cottage

UNDENIABLE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- A National Monument and National Historic Landmark
- Home where Lincoln drafted the Emancipation Proclamation

501(C)3 PUBLIC CHARITY STATUS

- The only National Monument that does not receive federal operating support. We rely on donations.
- Free educational programs for DC Public and Charter Schools and Title 1 VA & MD schools
- Over 5,000 students participate in our educational programs annually

TRACK RECORD OF EXCELLENCE

- Award-winning tours, special exhibits, and educational programs - including a Presidential Medal
- Voted "Best Museum Off the Mall" three years in a row

LEADERSHIP IN THE FIELD

- Cited in numerous diverse publications as a model for how historic sites should be interpreted

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- On the campus of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, home of 300 veterans
- Located in the vibrant Petworth neighborhood in DC and serves diverse visitors from all 50 states and across the globe

For More Information or Sponsorship Opportunities

JASON MOLIHAN
Director of Development

ADDRESS

3700 North Capitol St., NW #558
Washington, DC, 20011

PHONE NUMBER

202-688-3734

EMAIL ADDRESS

jmolihan@lincolncottage.org

www.lincolncottage.org